REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following supplemental comments in addition to those of record and withdraw the rejections of record.

Yamazaki Reference (JP06-145049)

The Yamazaki reference relates to a cross-linking type cataplasm base obtained by blending silicic anhydride in a cross-linked cataplasm base material consisting of a polyacrylic acid and/or its salt. Crosslinking agents described as usable therein include magnesium-aluminum hydroxide and the like. However, those agents are only described as examples of polyvalent metal salts and the reference does not suggest that any difference in crosslinking agents can contribute to any effect. The present invention can obtain effects described in the specification page 15, lines 12-17, by using magnesium hydroxide-aluminum hydroxide in combination with a water-soluble aluminum compound. The Yamazaki reference neither describes nor suggests such a combination, still less could any effect brought out by such a combination have been anticipated by the reference.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant submits herewith a partial English translation of the Yamazaki reference.

Ono Reference (EP 0507 160)

In order to further clarify differences from EP 0507 160, Applicant has add a new dependent claim reciting the amount range of polyhydric alcohol (C) as a range of 70 mass% (see the specification at page 13, line 16) to 94.5 mass%.

Further, Applicant has amended claim 13 based on the description from page 32, line 24 to page 33, line 5, so that the present invention may be distinguished even more clearly from the cited references.

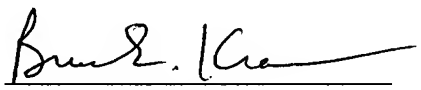
Moreover, Applicant has added a new independent claim which excludes from claim 1 (as amended on March 12, 2007) the case where the ratio of repeating units (1)/(2) is 100/0 by reciting a ratio of (1)/(2) being in a range from 90/10 to less than 100/0 (by mol).

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce E. Kramer
Registration No. 33,725

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860
WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 10, 2007

[0005]

The object of the present invention is to provide a cross-linking type cataplasm base not requiring adhesive tapes consisting of oily adhesive or a net which is conventionally used in fixing cataplasm having poor adhesion onto an affected area of the skin and not staining the skin with the poultice paste in peeling the cataplasm off the skin, by realizing excellent strength in the cross-linked cataplasm base material mainly consisting of a polyacrylic acid and/or its salt the base material with a cross-linking state that can achieve strong adhesion to thereby strike a highly-demanded good balance between adhesion and strength in the base material.

[0006]

[MEANS FOR ACHIEVING THE OBJECT]

As a result of intensive studies, the inventors have found out that by blending silicic anhydride in a cross-linked cataplasm base material consisting of a polyacrylic acid and/or its salt as a main component, a high strength can be achieved with addition of a small amount of crosslinking agent, which is useful in maintaining high viscosity of the base material and thus a cross-linking type cataplasm base having a good adhesiveness, not requiring adhesive tapes consisting of oily adhesive or a net which is conventionally used in fixing onto an affected area of the skin and not staining the skin with the poultice paste in peeling the cataplasm off the skin, can be obtained. Based on this finding, the inventors have completed the invention.

[0007]

That is, the invention is a cross-linked cataplasm base material mainly consisting of a polyacrylic acid and/or its salt, having silicic anhydride

blended therein.

[0008]

The silicic anhydride used in the invention is in form of fine particles. The average particle size is preferably 50 mμor less. Use of silicic anhydride having particle size of 1 μ or more leads to increase in addition amount when the target strength of the cataplasm base material is to be achieved. Therefore, use of such a silicic anhydride can lead to decrease in strength and adhesion against the object.

In the present invention, the amount of silicic anhydride is 8 weight% or less, preferably 0.5 to 4 weight%.

[0009]

The amount of polyacrylic acid and/or its salt used in the invention is from 3 weight% to 20 weight%. As crosslinking agent, polyvalent metal salt such as aluminum hydroxide, aluminum chloride, magnesium aluminometasilicate, magnesium-aluminum hydroxide, aluminum lactate, and synthetic hydrotalcite can be used.